

Regular Session, 2009

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 176

BY REPRESENTATIVE GIROD JACKSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create the Hudson Initiative Task Force to study the feasibility of offering business opportunities through state procurement and public contracts to small entrepreneurs in the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Act No. 440 of the 2005 Regular Session of the Legislature established the Louisiana Initiative for Small Entrepreneurship (the Hudson Initiative); and

WHEREAS, in order to bring the Hudson Initiative to fruition, legislation was implemented through Act No. 440 of the 2005 Regular Session of the Legislature, to provide enhancement to small and disadvantaged businesses participation while delivering the framework for state agencies to redefine the requirements to obtain state contracts; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Hudson Initiative was to encourage business opportunities for small entrepreneurs; and

WHEREAS, the Hudson Initiative, named for the late Charles I. "Doc" Hudson, provides for an all encompassing plan created to increase the level of participation and opportunity among small and disadvantaged businesses competing for contracts with Louisiana state agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Hudson Initiative will work to educate the private sector of the need and benefit of supporting diversity for viable partnerships with small and disadvantaged business firms seeking contracts with state agencies; and

WHEREAS, provisions of law required the commissioner of administration to: establish annual goals for small entrepreneurship participation in state procurement and public contracts; develop an application process for entities seeking certification and notify each applicant in writing relative to the outcome of their application; maintain a monthly list of all small entrepreneurs; provide periodic training for state employees relative to requirements of the initiative; conduct a semiannual training program to acquaint small

entrepreneurships with state procurement and public contract proposal and bidding practices;
and

WHEREAS, the Hudson Initiative truly strives to serve the good of the people in Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Hudson Initiative Task Force to study the feasibility of offering business opportunities available through state procurement and public contracts to small entrepreneurships in the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall study, review, and evaluate the Hudson Initiative including but not limited to:

- (1) Evaluating the implementation of the initiative as required by law.
- (2) Evaluating the appropriate level and number of goals of the initiative.
- (3) Making recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the initiative, including appropriate goals and benchmarks for the initiative.
- (4) Proposing changes as needed to the law and rules relative to the initiative.
- (5) Taking such other actions necessary to ensure small and disadvantaged businesses are sufficiently informed of the Hudson Initiative and its purposes to assist these businesses in obtaining public contracts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the following members:

- (1) The commissioner of administration of the division of administration or his designee.
- (2) The secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development or his designee.
- (3) The speaker of the House of Representatives or his designee.
- (4) The president of the Senate or his designee.
- (5) The chairman of the House Committee on Commerce or his designee.
- (6) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs or his designee.
- (7) The chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations or his designee.
- (8) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance or his designee.

- (9) The secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals or his designee.
- (10) The secretary of the Department of Economic Development or his designee.
- (11) A representative of the Association of General Contractors.
- (12) A representative of the Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- (13) A representative of the St. Landry Parish Chamber of Commerce.
- (14) A representative of the Monroe Chamber of Commerce.
- (15) A representative of the Greater Shreveport Area Chamber of Commerce.
- (16) A representative of the Baton Rouge Area Chamber of Commerce.
- (17) A representative of the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce.
- (18) A representative of the Chamber of Commerce of Southwest Louisiana.
- (19) A representative of the Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce.
- (20) A representative of the Jefferson Parish Chamber of Commerce.
- (21) A representative of the Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be cochaired by the chairmen of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs and the House Committee on Commerce.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall hold its first meeting no later than September 1, 2009. The task force shall finalize its work and shall submit a final report to the House committees on appropriations and commerce and the Senate committees on commerce, consumer protection, and international affairs and finance on or before January 1, 2010, at which time the task force shall cease to exist. The task force shall, commencing on October 1, 2009, submit progress reports to such committees on a quarterly basis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may establish such rules as are necessary for the orderly conduct of business.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all legislative members of the task force shall receive the same per diem and travel allowance for attending meetings of the task force or any meeting thereof as is normally provided for members of the legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nonlegislative members of the task force shall serve without compensation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and

International Affairs and the House Committee on Commerce, the president of the Senate, and the speaker of the House of Representatives prior to the convening of the 2010 Regular Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the commissioner of administration of the division of administration, secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development, secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals, executive director of the Association of General Contractors, executive director of the Greater New Orleans, Inc., St. Landry Chamber of Commerce, Monroe Chamber of Commerce, Greater Shreveport Area Chamber of Commerce, Baton Rouge Area Chamber of Commerce, Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, Chamber of Commerce of Southwest Louisiana, Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce, Jefferson Parish Chamber of Commerce, and the Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE